

## CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An apparatus for subcutaneous administration of an injectable product comprising:

- a) a housing;
- b) a container for said product, said container being accommodated by said housing;
- c) an injection needle connected to said container and protruding beyond said

housing; and

- d) a needle protection sleeve, surrounding said injection needle, said needle protection sleeve reciprocatingly shiftable between a proximal position and a distal position, wherein in said distal position, said injection needle protrudes beyond said needle protection sleeve and in said proximal position, said injection needle does not protrude beyond said needle protection sleeve; and
- e) an indicator which indicates to a user of said apparatus that said needle protection sleeve is in its distal position.

2. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said indicator is actuated by shifting said needle protection sleeve.

3. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said indicator is mounted on said housing.

4. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said needle protection sleeve and said indicator form a switch in a power supply circuit of an indicator means.

5. The apparatus as set forth in claim 4, wherein said switch is a contactless switch.

6. The apparatus as set forth in claim 4, wherein said switch closes said power supply circuit when said needle protection sleeve has attained its distal position.

7. The apparatus as set forth in claim 4, wherein said switch comprises at least two switching conditions, said power supply circuit comprises at least two circuits, a first circuit closed in one condition of said switch and open in the other of said at least two conditions of said switch, and a second circuit open in one condition of said at least two conditions of said switch and closed in the other condition of said switch.

8. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said indicator comprises a slider and a viewing window in a sleeve of said housing surrounding said slider, said slider mounted shiftably on said housing in the shifting direction of said needle protection sleeve and shifted by urging of said needle protection sleeve.

9. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said indicator outputs a first signal when said needle protection sleeve has attained its distal position and outputs another signal as long as said needle protection sleeve has still to attain its distal position.

10. The apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein said housing comprises an inner sleeve and an outer sleeve at least partly surrounding said inner sleeve, between which an annular gap is formed into which said needle protection sleeve is shiftable.

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11. An apparatus for subcutaneous administration of an injectable product comprising:

a housing;

an injection needle protruding beyond said housing;

a needle protection sleeve generally surrounding said injection needle, said needle protection sleeve connected to said housing and slidable between a proximal position and a distal position, wherein, in said distal position said injection needle protrudes beyond said needle protection sleeve and in said proximal position, said injection needle does not protrude beyond said needle protection sleeve; and  
an indicator which indicates to a user of the apparatus that the needle protection sleeve is in its distal position.

12. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said indicator provides a first signal when said needle protection sleeve is in its distal position and a second signal as long as said needle protection sleeve is not in its distal position.

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13. The apparatus according to claim 11, said indicator comprising a slider and a viewing window associated with the housing, said slider shiftably mounted on said housing, and shifted by urging of said needle protection sleeve.

14.

The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said indicator provides a first signal when said needle protection sleeve is in its distal position and a second signal as long as said needle protection sleeve is not in its distal position.

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